



Native Americans in the Federal Decennial Censuses, 1790–1930

Prior to 1900, few Indians are included in the decennial Federal census. There are no records for 1890 because a fire at the Commerce Department building in Washington, DC, destroyed the general population census. Beginning with the 1900 census, Indians are enumerated on reservations as well as in the general population. They are listed by their Native American name, or sometimes by their Anglicized or English name.

Federal Decennial Censuses

1790–1840

- Indians not identified by race

1850 Census

___M432, *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850*. 1,009 rolls.

- First census to list all family members and record information about each person
- People identified as white, black, or mulatto; although in rare instances as Indian
- No census for Indian Country (most of the mid-West)

1860 Census

___M653, *Eighth Census of the United States, 1860*. 1,439 rolls.

- People identified as white, black, or mulatto; although in rare instances as Indian (usually in column 6, with the notation “Ind” or “In”)
- Includes the Indian Territory (Oklahoma), but no Indians are identified. The Indian Territory is located at end of Arkansas schedules on **roll 52**.

1870 Census

___M593, *Ninth Census of the United States, 1870*. 1,748 rolls.

- Indians in the general population are identified in column 6, Color, by “I” or “In”
- Some reservations and Indian agencies identified, but the schedules mostly list white or non-Indian residents
- No census taken in Indian Territory (Oklahoma)

1880 Census

___T9, *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880*. 1,454 rolls.

- Indians in the general population identified in column 4, Color, by “I” or “In”
- Some reservations and Indian agencies identified, but the schedules mostly list white or non-Indian residents
- No census taken in Indian Territory (Oklahoma)

1900 Census

___T623, *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. 1,854 rolls.

- Indians both on reservations and in the general population are identified in column 5, Color or Race.
- Special Indian schedule contained additional questions to the general schedule
- Special Indian schedules are usually found at the end of the county, but sometimes grouped together on last roll of microfilm for the state.
- Census of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) appears on **rolls 1,843–1,854**

1910 Census

___T624, *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910*. 1,784 rolls.

- Indians on reservations and in the general population are identified in column 6, Color or Race.
- Special Indian schedules contain additional questions to the general schedule.
- Special Indian schedules are found in county where Indian was living.

1920 Census

___T625, *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*. 2,076 rolls.

- Indians on reservations and in the general population are identified in column 10, Color or Race, in the county where they were living.
- No special Indian schedules

1930 census

___T626, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. 2,668 rolls.

- Indians on reservations and in the general population are identified in column 12, Color or Race, in the county where they were living.
- The degree of Indian blood is noted in column 19; the tribe is noted in column 20.
- No special Indian schedules

Additional Information

For more information, see the following reference reports:

- *Native Americans in Bureau of the Census Records, 1857–1907*
- *Enumeration of Pueblo Indians, 1790–1939*
- *Eastern Cherokee Enrollments and Census Enumerations, 1835–1940*
- *Enumeration of the Yakima Indians, 1880–1940*
- *Chippewa Enumeration, 1885–1940*

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